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DORCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

I.B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.





DORCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary condition of the  
RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER  
Year ended 31st December, 1951.

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To The Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council  
PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

I.B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

N. Rawlins, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:

F.C. Powell, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

R.J. Blandamer, Cert.R.S.I., S.I.E.J.B.

Senior Clerk

Miss K.R. Brooks.

Clerk

C.E. Kingsbury.

Junior Clerk & Pupil Sanitary Inspector

S.A.W. Brown.

Rodent Operator

E.R. Savage.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

Miss S.C.Burgess.

Temporary Clerk to Public Health  
Department

Miss M.J. Davis.



The district is a large sparsely populated area surrounding the Borough of Dorchester.

There are no large industrial concerns, the occupations being mainly agricultural in character.

Infectious disease was prevalent during the year, especially Measles and Whooping Cough. A few cases of non-notifiable diseases were also investigated, Infectious Aundice in the north and two cases of Weils Disease in the eastern part of the district.

I feel the work of the Health Department this year might be summed up in the word "Endeavour".

I am grateful to the Council for the temporary appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector, which has enabled the department to clear a lot of outstanding work, and the carrying out of work such as more regular sampling of water supplies without which an appreciation of the potential sources of danger to health cannot be correctly assessed, and I am only sorry that the extension of the appointment could not have been granted.

The response of the trades to the Clean Food Campaign, as I believe, be deemed as satisfactory, and I extend my thanks for their co-operation.

I do reiterate my comments of last year, that Housing is the worst hazard in the district and that satisfactory Public health cannot be attempted until these dangers to health are removed. The potential danger to health of the numerous slum-dwellings in the district is a constant worry.

The control of health cannot be pigeon-holed to one branch of the Health Service - that is the preventative - but, the early ascertainment of diseases by the doctors in General Practice and the Hospital services is very important, and I wish to record my appreciation of their help. I believe a closer link between these services will prove all powerful in the elimination of disease, and this is where I think the Council's help is needed, that is in overcoming the housing problem - the conditions under which patients live would diminish the endeavour of the finest of doctors, when they have to recommend fresh air and sunshine and the hospital doctor must think, is my effort worth while, when they have to send patients back to such homes for convalescence. The old adage is still true -

"Where the sunshine enters, the Doctor does not".



GENERAL STATISTICS (Figures for 1950 shown in brackets)

Area (land and internal water)	...	...	128,592 acres.
Resident Population	...	...	Census 17,560(18,062)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1951	...	...	4,871( 4,809)
Rateable Value	...	...	...£80,619(£79,128)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	£331 (£325)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates 17,560

<u>Births</u>			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	124	117	241
Illegitimate	...	...	11	10	21
Total			135	127	262 (266)

Still Births

Legitimate	...	...	0	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
Total			1	2	3 (6)
Deaths all causes			114	92	206 (179)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year. (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	0	1	1
Total			3	4	7 (4)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks. (Neonatal Mortality)

Legitimate	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	0	1	1
Total			1	1	2 (3)





DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (respiratory) . . . . .	3	1	4
Tuberculosis (other) . . . . .	-	-	-
Diphtheria . . . . .	-	-	-
Whooping Cough . . . . .	-	-	-
Meningitis . . . . .	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	-	1	1
Measles . . . . .	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Cancer of lung, bronchus . . . . .	1	1	2
Cancer of stomach.. . . .	4	-	4
Cancer of breast... . . . .	-	4	4
Cancer of uterus... . . . .	-	-	-
Other Cancers . . . . .	10	4	14
Anaemia . . . . .	1	1	2
Diabetes . . . . .	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .	11	11	22
Coronary disease, angina . . . . .	14	13	27
High Blood Pressure with heart disease	3	4	7
Other Heart disease . . . . .	28	21	49 (36)
Other circulatory disease... . .	3	1	4
Influenza . . . . .	5	3	8
Pneumonia . . . . .	5	4	9
Bronchitis . . . . .	2	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	3	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . . . .	5	-	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis . . . . .	-	5	5
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .	3	-	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	3	13
Motor vehicle accidents . . . . .	2	-	2
All other accidents . . . . .	3	2	5
Suicide . . . . .	-	1	1
All causes . . . . .	114	92	206

Live Birth Rate . . . . .	...	...	14.9 (16.0)
Birth Rate for England and Wales . . . .	...	...	15.5 (15.8)
Death Rate . . . . .	...	...	11.1 (10.8)
Death Rate for England and Wales . . . .	...	...	12.5 (11.6)
Infant Mortality Rate . . . . .	...	...	26.7 (25.0)
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	29.6 (29.8)



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles was very prevalent during the year, usually it is a disease occurring in the autumn, but this year the peak was in June. A smaller outbreak of Whooping Cough ran at the same time and followed a similar course. The latter disease is now one of the most dangerous, especially to young babies, but there is hope that in the near future immunisation will control it as in Diphtheria.

The Dysentery outbreak was due to the Sonne type of bacillus, the cases being notified over a period of five months, thus showing the difficulty of controlling this disease, even though most of the cases occurred in a closed community. No deaths occurred.

The two cases of Wells disease occurred within ten days of each other, and although they lived just over a mile apart no apparent connection was discovered. In one case the patient was bitten by a rat and in the other evidence of rat infection was visible - both patients were adults, both were hospitalised and both recovered. Rats submitted for analysis showed no evidence of the germs.

The following table summarises the notifications of Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases Notified										A.U.	TOTAL	Cases	Deaths
	Age Periods												admitted	
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	to				
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	A.U.	TOTAL	Hospital		
Scarlet														
Fever	-	1	-	3	2	8	-	-	-	-	14	5	-	
Whooping														
Cough	5	22	24	55	5	11	3	-	2	-	117	(45) 1	-	
Measles	9	46	63	195	28	7	10	1	-	4	363	(55) 2	1	
Pneumon-														
ia	-	1	-	2	1	1	5	9	6	-	25			
Erysip-														
elas	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	5	-	-	
Paraly-														
sis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Dysent-														
ery	-	1	-	-	-	1	10	18	22	-	52			
P. Pyrexia-														
	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Food Poi-														
soning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
Enceph-														
alitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	

No cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid, Smallpox, Meningitis or Scabies occurred during the year.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".

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# TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1951 the following cases and deaths from tuberculosis were notified -

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ..	9 (4)	9 (2)	1 (5)	1 (3)	3 (1)	1 (1)	-	-(1)

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY - DORCHESTER

Total number X-rayed.	No. recalled for Large Film.	No. referred to Chest Clinic (probably T.B.)	No. referred to Doctor/Hospital for other conditions.
3016	74	14	13

## CLEAN FOOD

A Campaign was commenced in May 1951 in conjunction with the Borough of Dorchester. Clean food talks and discussions were given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Sanitary Inspectors of both Authorities, different branches of the trades were taken on separate nights. Films on Clean Food were shown - I would like to thank the Central Office of Information for their help in this matter. The response was gratifying, many traders travelling long distances to attend.

The talks were held at the Clinic kindly loaned by the County Council, and I wish to thank the County Council for their co-operation. Further follow up visits to help the traders, are now being carried out.

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1851



## WATER SUPPLIES

Much progress was made during the year to catch up on Water Sampling which had fallen off because of the insufficiency of staff, and in two quite large supplies, immediate action had to be taken to chlorinate supplies.

I cannot stress too strongly the need for the continuation of this regular sampling, but without additional staff, it cannot be carried out.

The provision of water supplies to the villages is now proceeding rapidly.

During the year new water mains are in process of being laid in the villages of Sydling St. Micholas and Up-Sydling, Grimstone, Stratton and Frampton, Winterborne Abbas, Winterborne Steepleton and Winterborne St. Martin. Also an extension to the Hamlet of Doles Ash, Piddletrenthide.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING & REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of fortnightly by controlled tipping mainly in one large pit, on an isolated heath.

## SEWERAGE

I am not at all happy about the smaller sewage disposal works in parts of the district, in some cases, we know there are often difficulties in proper disposal at a reasonable cost, but communal health must come first.

However, good progress is being made in the larger villages with main schemes, and in one village which has a large hospital negotiations are taking place with the neighbouring Authority for disposal at their works.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the Ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420. In an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency and nature of the case and full address and which Ambulance is required.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

No action was necessary under Section 47. i.e. removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

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## HOME HELP SERVICE

For the Borough and Rural District of Dorchester the average help available during any one week, is one part time and one spare time help, but these could be increased if required.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided at the County Laboratory, Glyde Path Road, Dorchester. Recently a Public Health Laboratory has been incorporated in the Laboratory.

## LABORATORY SPECIMENS

Throat Swabs	...	43	Milk	...	...	11
Faeces	...	78	Ice Cream	...	...	1
Blood	...	19	Miscellaneous	..	...	9
Ringworm	...	6	Water	...	...	205

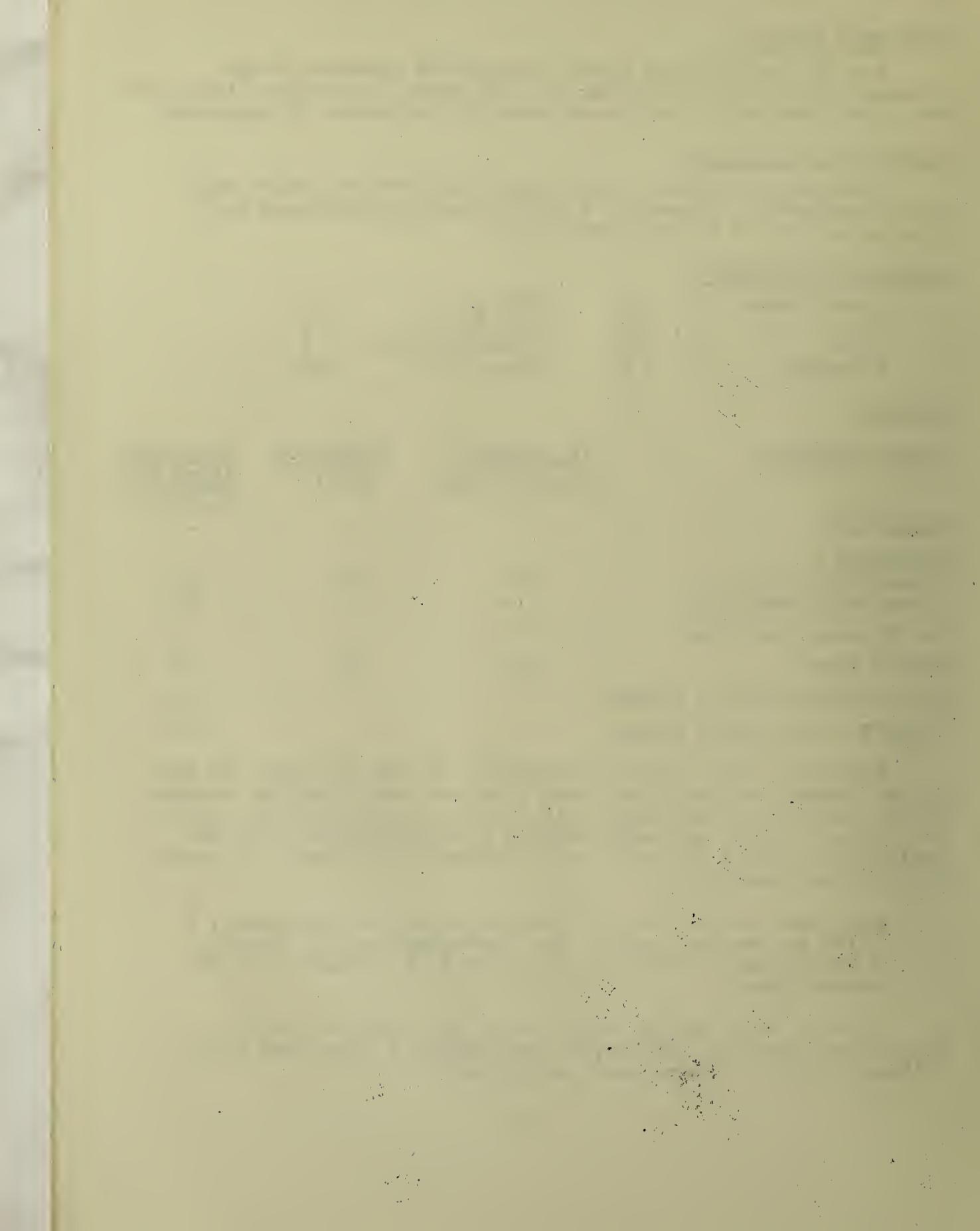
## HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1951.</u>	<u>Completed since end of War.</u>
Temporary	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	70	42	120
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Old Persons Bungalows	4	-	4
Hutted Camp	34	35	103
No. of older Council houses			199
Total No. of Council houses			383

There has been little improvement in the provision of new houses during the year; but much time has been spent by members of the Committees and Officials trying to find suitable sites for Council houses and many schemes are contemplated for the coming year and it is hoped that a substantial number of houses will be forthcoming.

Four more houses for Old Persons have been commenced, I would like to see many more. The percentage of Old People living twenty years hence is estimated to be double that of the present time.

In many areas Duplex type houses are made use of for providing homes for old people, and taking a long term view, I think they will prove most economical.



## REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### HOUSING.

#### Inspections and visits carried out:-

No. of houses inspected	- (a) Under Housing Act	92
	(b) Under Public Health Act	103
No. of return visits	- (a) Under Housing Act	297
	(b) Under Public Health Act	108
No. of houses found to be legally overcrowded		6
No. of houses found to be verminous		5

#### Subsequent action taken and general progress:-

No. of dwellings recommended for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936		28
No. of the above dwellings in connection with which notice of Time and Place under Section 11 served		14
No. of the above dwellings on which demolition orders were subsequently served		5
No. of the above dwellings on which an undertaking not to use as human habitation was given		1
No. of dwellings recommended for action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936		3
No. of dwellings recommended during the year on which statutory action was not commenced		17
No. of dwellings recommended during previous years in connection with which notice of Time and Place under Section 11 served		3
No. of demolition orders served in respect of dwellings recommended during previous years		3

Summary of notices served:- Informal (a) Under Housing Act 6  
(b) Under Public Health Act 21

Statutory (a) Housing Act (Section 9) 6  
(b) Housing Act (Section 11) 8

Houses rendered fit after:- Informal (a) Under Housing Act 6  
service of notices (b) Under Public Health Act 4  
(including notices served in previous years)

Statutory (a) Under Housing Act 2  
(b) Under Public Health Act 1

No. of houses demolished as unfit for human habitation during year 8  
No. of cases of overcrowding abated 3



## WATER SUPPLY.

No. of visits made in connection with water supplies,  
including those made for the purpose of taking  
samples 256

Total No. of water samples taken 205

(a) For Bacteriological :- Satisfactory 118  
examination Suspicious 20  
Unsatisfactory 55

(b) For Chlorine Content:- Satisfactory 12  
only Unsatisfactory -

No. of notices served requiring the provision of a  
satisfactory supply of water 5

### Details of Chlorinating Plants in use:-

Parish.	Address	Owner	Date in- stalled.	Type.
Abbotsbury	Coastguard C'ges	Mr.A.H. Donnelly.	7.12.48	Belco
Alton Pancras	Barcombe Farm	Mr.J.H. Water- man,	1949.	Belco.
Buckland Newton	Pumping Station	Sturminster Rural Dist- rict Council.		Candy
Cattistock	Pumping Station	Yeovil Corpor- ation Water- works,	July 1951	Bell
Charmin- ster.	Pumping Station, Forston.	Dorchester Rural District Council.	10.3.39	Wallace & Tiernan.
Maiden Newton.	Pumping Station	Dorchester Rural District Council	June 1949.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Minterne Magna.	Hurdley Moor Farm	Mr.J.K. Crocker.	May 1950	Belco.
Melcombe Horsey.	Albert Field Springs (Pumphouse)	Colonel Woodhouse	20.12.49	Wallace & Tiernan.
Piddle- trent- hide.	Spring near Rockpit Dairy, Plush.	Mr.H.M. J. Barnard Hankoy.	15.1.49	Belco

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1886



### Chlorinating Plants (contd):-

Stinsford	Kingston Maurward Farm Institute.	Dorset County Council.	Manual Dosing.
Tincleton	Clyffe House.	Dorset County Council.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Toller Porcorum.	Higher Kingcombe.	Mr.C.A. Crocker.	20.4.49 Belco.
Tolpuddle	T.U.C.Cottages.	T.U.C. Memorial Trust.	11.11.49 Belco.
West Knighton.	Empool Waterworks.	Weymouth Waterworks.	Paterson Chloro- nome.
Winterborne Monkton.	Pumping Station.	Mr. W.R. Elworthy.	Bell.

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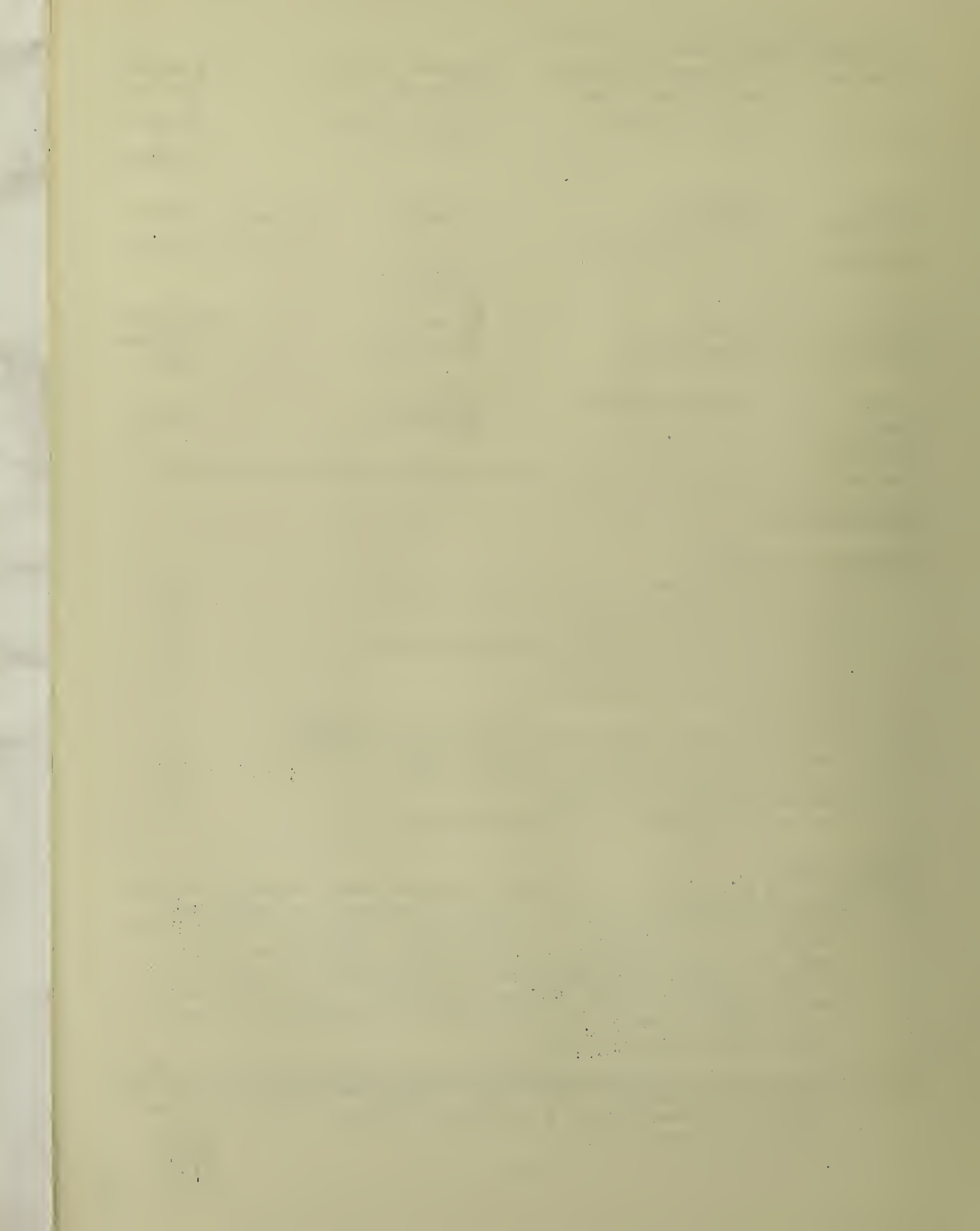
### FOOD & DRUGS.

#### Summary of Visits:-

Licensed Premises	8
Government Slaughterhouse, Dorchester	35
Private Slaughterhouses	9
Butchers Shops and other Meat Premises	19
Grocers and Greengrocers	15
Fishmongers and Poulterers	1
Bakehouses	6
Restaurants and other Food Preparing Premises	10
Premises making application for Registration for sale and storage of Ice Cream	10
Miscellaneous Food Visits	19
Visits for purpose of taking samples	11

#### Action taken:-

- (a) Informal Notices - 16 Informal Notices were served on the Owners and/or Occupiers of Food Premises to carry out works of a structural nature, or to improve the cleanliness of their premises. Subsequent inspections have shown a marked improvement in cleanliness as required, and discussions with Owners in several cases has taken place, with a view to the necessary structural alterations being carried out.
- (b) Registration of premises for the sale and storage of Ice Cream - 10 premises have been registered for the sale and storage of Pre-Packed Ice Cream, making a total in the area registered of 27.





(c) Milk Sampling - 11 Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological examination were reported as satisfactory.

(d) Condemnation of Foodstuffs -

Tons Cwts. Qrs.Lbs.

Meat At the Government Slaughterhouse

1. 17. 3. 10.

At Private Slaughterhouses

2. 1. 5.

At Butchers Shops etc.

1. 1. 0. 16.

Total Meat condemned -

3. 1. 1. 3.

Tinned Foods

Meat

1. 1. 2.

Fruit

19.

Fish

2.

Milk

5.

Soup

4.

Vegetables

9.

Total Tinned Food condemned -

1. 2. 13.

Other Foods

2 Boxes of Bloaters

1. 0.

Chocolate with Nuts

1. 0.

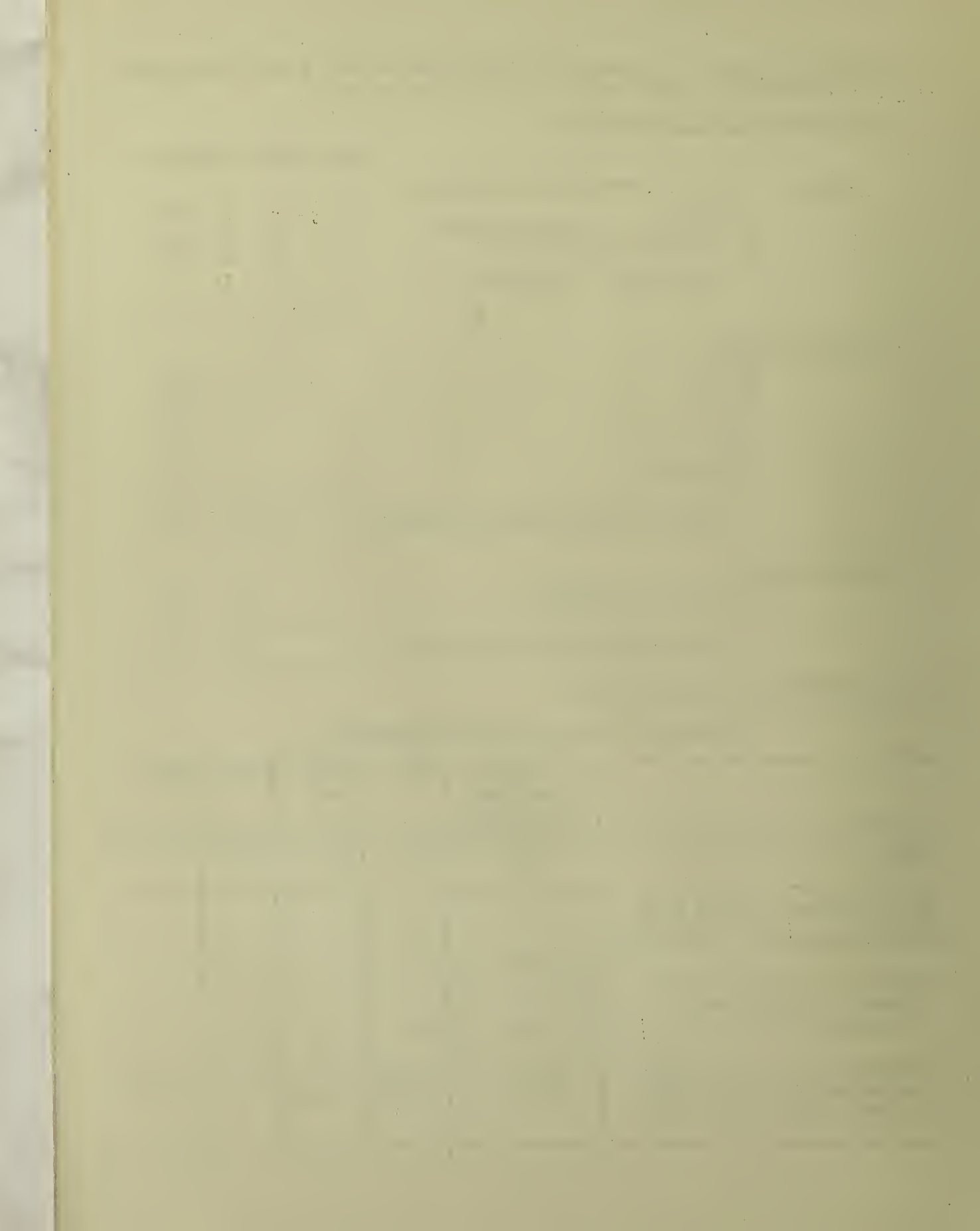
Total other Food condemned -

2. 0.

(e) Government Slaughterhouse -

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Cal- ves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	135	76	178	502	7
All Diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned		2			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	40	23	4	40	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	29.63	32.89	2.25	7.69	42.97



	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Cal- ves	Sheep	Pigs
<u>T.B. only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned		1			1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	20	25			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	14.81	34.21			14.29

NUISANCES.

No. of nuisances investigated	76
No. of subsequent visits	90
No. of alleged nuisances found to be non-existent	12
No. of Notices served requiring nuisance to be abated:-	
(a) Informal	58
(b) Statutory	2
No. of nuisances abated after service of Notices	42

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

a) Factories.

1. <u>Inspections -</u>	No. on Regis- ter.	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occu- piers Prose- cuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	51			
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	92	15	6	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	6			
Total -	149	15	6	



2. Cases in which defects were found -

Referred

	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspec- tor.	By H.M. Inspec- tor.	Pros- ecut- ions.
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	2				
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act	2	2		1	
Total ;	7	3		2	

(b) Outworkers -

Net Makers	123
Glove Manufacturers	35
Handknitting	15
<hr/>	
<u>Total No. of Out-</u> <u>workers</u>	- 173

RODENT CONTROL.

No. of premises surveyed	454
No. of cases of infestation found	258
Degree of infestation found:- Major	25
Minor Secondary	82
Minor	151
Courses of treatment carried out	166
15.	



## REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

No. of visits made by Officers in connection with the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage

No. of miles covered by the refuse lorry in course of collection over the 58 Parishes in the area

16,004

Salvage - the following material was salvaged :-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	36.	17.	3.	0.	510.	15.	9.
Colled Aluminium		1.	1.	0.	3.	0.	4.
Grass		1.	2.	5.	7.	3.	0.
Copper			1.	19.	2.	12.	3.
Iron	2.	9.	2.	0.	6.	3.	9.
Bagging		7.	0.	18.	3.	8.	8.
Bones		1.	3.	0.		10.	1.
Wags & Flock		11.	2.	25.	21.	7.	8.
Rubber Tyres, Tubes etc.		7.	5.	0.	2.	13.	9.
	40.	19.	1.	11.			
Bottles	317	Dozen			13.	12.	5.
Miscellaneous Items					4.	5.	11.
<u>Total -</u>					£575.	13.	7.

## BUILDING BYELAWS.

No. of visits made in connection with Building Byelaws 254

No. of visits made in connection with drainage under Building Byelaws 375

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No. of visits made to sites and moveable dwellings 113

No. of Licensed Sites in area 14

No. of Individual Moveable Dwellings Licensed on sites not included above 25

No. of Sites Licensed during year 3

No. of Individual Moveable Dwellings Licensed during year on Sites not included above 13



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No. of Notices served in respect of unsatisfactory conditions found on Licensed Sites	2
No. of Notices served requiring the removal of Unlicensed Dwellings	8

### SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supply	256
Drainage	375
Stables and Piggeries	4
Offensive Trades	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	113
Factories	9
Outworkers	1
Bakehouses	6
Refuse Collection	45
Refuse Disposal	35
Rats and Mice	6
Schools	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	199
Building Byelaws	254
Petroleum Acts	13
Licensed Premises	8
Night Soil	1
Houses inspected under Public Health Act	103
Visits made to houses under Public Health Act	108
Houses inspected under Housing Act	92
Visits made to houses under Housing Act	297
Houses inspected with regard to overcrowding	13
Verminous houses inspected	5
Visits made to verminous houses	6
Inspections in cases of Infectious Diseases	3
Visits for purpose of disinfection	3
Miscellaneous housing visits	167
Town and Country Planning	1
Slaughterhouses	44
Shops and Stalls	8
Visits to other meat premises	5
Butchers	6
Fishmongers and Poulterers	1
Grocers	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Ice-Cream premises	10
Food Preparing premises	8
Restaurants	2
Sampling - Milk/Bacteriological	11
Miscellaneous Food visits	27
<u>Total No. of Visits -</u>	<u>2264</u>

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

I.B. LAWRENCE.

